

# CONGRATULATING GAIL LANGWORTHY ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Gail Langworthy, an incredibly kind and dedicated employee of mine who has served my constituents for 8 years back in the district.

Gail is moving on to an exciting new phase of her life, and she is leaving our office to enjoy her retirement.

When Gail isn't working hard for the people of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, she is an active volunteer for the Breedtown Cemetery Association in Venango County. She enjoys dancing, visiting her three grandchildren in Florida, and exploring local trails while riding bikes with her husband, Jeff.

Gail has also been described as an avid thrift shop and yard sale junkie. Gail will be missed by our entire team, but I am happy for her as she begins this new adventure.

Thank you, Gail, for your hard work, dedication, and service, and enjoy your retirement.

## RECOGNIZING DAVE BAILEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dave Bailey, who has worked for 31 years for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer by supporting Member offices with all sorts of technology needs.

Dave has been a frequent visitor to our office to help me and my staff with our computers any time that we had an issue. He also played a critical role in ensuring our office was ready to telework as we transitioned our lives online at the start of this pandemic.

Simply put, we would not be able to do our jobs without people like Dave Bailey.

I am disappointed that I will not be able to share my well wishes with Dave in person, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his three decades of service and for all the help that he has provided me in my office.

Dave, be well, and enjoy your much-deserved retirement.

## COVID VACCINE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we reached a truly incredible milestone in the fight against coronavirus.

On Monday, the first COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer was administered, and today, the FDA is meeting to approve the Moderna vaccine.

The timeline of vaccine development was made possible by Operation Warp Speed, and it is truly a modern medical miracle. In the 1930s, at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jonas Salk began work on a polio vaccine. It wasn't until 1953, 23 years later, that the vaccine was successfully tested.

Operation Warp Speed has helped shrink the vaccine timeline and knock

down barriers in delays. To develop a safe, effective vaccine in under a year is a testament to the incredible scientific progress we have seen over the years and the refusal of scientists to surrender to this terrible virus.

The marshaling of the public sector and the private sector together by President Trump has really resulted in this vaccine that we have all been desperately waiting on. The vaccine is a critical step in saving lives, saving jobs, and saving our economy.

I thank President Trump for his leadership in Operation Warp Speed, and I thank all the incredible scientists, doctors, medical professionals, and the others who have helped make history.

## COVID RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, on the eve of a hopeful vote on the next COVID relief bill that our Problem Solvers Caucus has so ably led the charge on, I rise to tell the stories of three individuals from my district. Their stories represent just a fraction of the messages I have been receiving on COVID relief.

But today, on the floor of the people's House, I rise because they deserve to be heard. Their stories are the reason we refuse to go home for Christmas without an agreement. They are why we continue to fight until a deal is reached.

First, I would like to talk about Bob, who wrote to me from Brighton, Michigan. Bob is a pillar of his community. After serving his Nation in the Army National Guard for 6 years, he has been giving back to his fellow veterans for over 21 years as a district post commander for The American Legion.

But for the first time in 16 years, Bob recently found himself laid off from his job in construction due to the coronavirus. To cover his expenses, like 171,000 others in Michigan, he had to file a first-time claim for unemployment insurance. Despite being eligible for the State's maximum benefit, he cannot make ends meet.

Between medications and health insurance, mortgage and car payments, utilities and food, he is having to turn to his savings, and he knows that won't last long.

Bob is responsible, a straight shooter, and he has served our country. He is the kind of Michigander who anyone would want in their corner, but right now, he is asking for help, not sometime in the future, not after the inauguration of a new President.

He is asking us to pass a bill that helps the millions of Americans who are in need. It is our job, and it is our duty to rise to that call.

□ 1230

I am also pushing for relief for Richard, who is from my hometown of Holly, Michigan. Richard chairs our

Downtown Development Authority Board, which supports the businesses on Main Street, many of which have been devastated by the pandemic.

Richard has had a front row seat to how critical the situation is, so he wrote me, asking what the Federal Government is going to do to save small businesses from bankruptcy.

I had the chance to talk to Richard over the phone this week, and we agreed that small businesses need loans and clarity on whether those loans will be forgiven or if they can deduct that loan in tax season. This is what we will hopefully be voting on in the next 48 hours in the update to the PPP program.

Richard and I do not see eye to eye on every issue, but when it comes to our local businesses, we are residents of Holly first. We agree that small businesses need a bridge to get them through the next year when the vaccine will be widely available. After all, it is business owners like Richard who have shown the grit and resilience needed to adapt to these challenging times. It is only right that we have their backs when they need it most.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I am pushing for this bill because of Karli. She is a server at Mackle's in Hartland, Michigan—where, by the way, they have the best buffalo chicken wing tenders ever—and the best part of the job for her is creating memorable experiences for guests who come to share a meal. But these days, with the kitchen converted fully to takeout, she is working half as many shifts and taking home half the pay she used to.

COVID blindsided her and the rest of the service industry, and now she is worried about the bills that are piling up. In between shifts and stretching every paycheck, she is going to school to become a nurse, joining the absolute front line of America's latest war. Simply put, she can't imagine going into the new year with no extra help.

Mr. Speaker, she ends her letter with these words: "Please help take care of us so we can get back to taking care of you as our guests."

Take care of us so we can take care of you.

Mr. Speaker, think about that for a moment. In the middle of a global pandemic, one that has claimed 300,000 American lives and upended our way of life, that is the mantra of folks on the ground, folks who just want to take care of their neighbors and their communities. They are not asking for the government to solve every problem, but they expect their government to act.

For residents in my district, an agreement is more than just numbers on a page. It is a ray of hope that maybe they will spend Christmas a little less worried. It is a new year that they can truly look forward to. It is a sign that, when their backs are up against the wall and they need help, Congress can get in a room and agree on a deal.